

Over-the-Rhine Plan Implementation On Track

Recently, the City of Cincinnati's Department of Community Development and Planning (DCDP) staff tracked implementation of the Over-the-Rhine Comprehensive Plan to determine if it was, in fact, serving as a guide for the community development as intended. The plan was adopted by City Council in 2002 and reflected a two year partnership between the Over-the-Rhine community, stakeholders and the City of Cincinnati.

Of the 170 recommendations contained in the plan in the fields of housing, economic development, quality of life, transportation, and safety, the stakeholders -- residents, development agencies, community organizations, the city, and others ---have addressed 75% (128) of the recommendations in the past four years. While there is still much work that needs to occur in the neighborhood, the findings prove that we, as a community, are on the right track.

In order to come up with this implementation number, DCDP staff surveyed community organizations and asked for a list of projects undertaken in the past four years, since the inception of the Plan. Staff then matched projects with appropriate recommendations in the Plan.

Highlights of implementation efforts include:

Cornerstone Loan Fund completed St. Anthony Village I, employing the "Renter Equity Concept" and has begun planning for St. Anthony Village II, thereby addressing the following recommendation: Work with residents to facilitate asset development such as renter equity

The City of Cincinnati's Department of Community Development's Rental Rehab Program has provided over \$3 million in loans towards the creation of over 350 affordable rental units in OTR.

The City, the Home Ownership Center of Greater Cincinnati, 5/3rd Bank and Union Savings Bank launched the Live, Buy, Design in Over-the-Rhine loan program in 2006 that provides low interest loans for homeownership in OTR.

The Cincinnati Development fund is encouraging new residents by providing loans to developers. In the past four years, CDF has provided over \$36 million in loans towards the creation of market rate and affordable units.

Cincinnati Business Incubator, Smart Money Community Services, Cincinnati State Culinary Institute, Cincinnati Cooks, Cincinnati Works and Super Jobs Center are providing job training services in the community.

To promote OTR heritage through tours and promotional material, the Cincinnati Preservation Association, through Architreks offers weekly seasonal tours of the neighborhood, Merchants of Main sponsored the Saints and Sinners Tour for Bock Fest 2006) and the Brewery District recently hosted the Prohibition Resistance Tour in conjunction with Oktoberfest 2006.

The organizations working to promote Findlay Market as a regional destination are: the Corporation for Findlay Market, the City of Cincinnati, University of Cincinnati, 3CDC, Uptown Consortium and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful.

The City of Cincinnati's Urban Forestry Division has planted several hundred new trees in the area to increase the tree canopy from 16% to 19%, not including additional canopy coverage resulting from growth of newly planted trees.

These are just some examples of many efforts in the community. Please visit <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cdap/pages/-3906-/> to review the "Implementation Update" in its entirety.